

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 657

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmy Cook of Red Boiling Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmy Cook; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 22, 1932, Jimmy Cook was the son of Lossie Deckard Cook and Willie Cook of Red Boiling Springs; it was here that he spent his youth, ultimately graduating from Red Boiling Springs High School in 1951; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Cook graduated from David Lipscomb University, where he received his bachelor's degree, and he received his master's degree from Tennessee Technological University in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cook enjoyed a supremely successful career in education, during which he taught school and served as a guidance counselor in Macon County Schools for almost forty years; he also served for twelve years on the Macon County School Board, and for two of those years, Mr. Cook and his daughter served as school board members in different counties—the only father-daughter school board team in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was always working with the students of Red Boiling Springs School, whether it was working with students to clean up the town park; driving them to college visits; assisting them with school, home, and spiritual life; or writing and directing school plays; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was devoted to his beloved Red Boiling Springs community, and one of his most honored moments was when he served as grand marshal of the Red Boiling Springs Christmas Parade; he also served with the March of Dimes, worked with the Red Boiling Springs City Council, and supported conservative candidates for office, once serving as Macon County Chairman for Senator Lamar Alexander, and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cook was a devoted Church of Christ minister for sixty years, serving Red Boiling Springs Church of Christ, Union Hill Church of Christ, Hermitage Springs Church of Christ, Bennett Hill Church of Christ, and the Germany Church of Christ; he baptized a number of people into Christ, performed hundreds of marriage ceremonies and funerals, and conducted Gospel meetings across the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was also a published author with his Sermon Outlines and is well-known for his award-winning weekly newspaper column, "Rural Viewpoints"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered but sadly mourned by his loving wife of sixty-seven years, Janie Cassetty Cook; children, John Cook, Joseph Cook, and Jennifer (Steve) Hamblin; grandchildren, Zach, Allen, Lindsey (Corey), Sloan, Hannah, and Allison; great-grandchildren, Caden, Kaila, Leighann, and Jaxson; sister, Katherine (Harold) Belle; brothers-in-law, Don (Rita) Cassetty and Mark Cassetty; sisters-in-law, Anne Cassetty and Bonnie Cassetty; and dear family friends, Jacki Cook and Penny Brockett; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Mr. Cook was preceded in death by his brothers, Ralph Cook, Roy Cook, and James Deckard; sister, Virginia Pedigo; mother- and father-in-law, Claudine and Chester Cassetty; brothers-in-law, Ben Cassetty, Harold Cassetty, Tom Cassetty, and Ray Pedigo; niece, Annette Pedigo Ervin; and nephews, Bobby Cassetty, Brian Cassetty, and Kevin Cassetty; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cook leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jimmy Cook, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Cook.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.